

Appl. No. 09/695,814

REMARKS

Claims 85, 97, 104 and 118 are amended. Claims 86-87, 91, 98-103 and 105-107 are cancelled. Claims 85, 88-90, 92-97, 104, 108 and 118 are pending in the application.

Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's indicated allowability of the subject matter of claims 87-90, 97, 107, 108 and 118.

Claims 85, 86 and 91-96 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hasegawa, U.S. Patent No. 6,396,207. Without admission as to the propriety of the Examiner's rejection, independent claim 85 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 87 which is indicated as allowable. Claim 87 is appropriately cancelled. Amended claim 85 is allowable for at least the reason that it recites subject matter indicated as allowable by the Examiner.

Claims 86 and 91 are cancelled. Dependent claims 88-90 and 92-96 are allowable in dependent form for at least the reason that they depend from allowable base claim 85.

Claim 97 is amended to place it in independent form. Claim 97 is allowable for at least the reason that it recites subject matter indicated by the Examiner to be allowable.

Claims 98-103 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takeshi, Japan Patent 09-025562. Without admission as to the propriety of the Examiner's rejection, claims 98-103 are cancelled.

Claims 104-106 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Schintmeister, U.S. Patent No. 4,895,770. Without admission as to the propriety of the Examiner's rejection, claim 104 is amended to incorporate allowable subject matter of claim 107. Claim 107 is appropriately cancelled. Amendment claim 104 is allowable for at least the reason that it recites subject matter indicated by the Examiner to be allowable.

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Claims 105-106 are cancelled. Claim 108 is allowable in dependent form for at least the reason that it depends from allowable base claim 104.

Dependent claim 118 has been amended to place it in independent form. Claim 118 is allowable for at least the reason that it recites subject matter indicated by the Examiner to be allowable.

For the reasons discussed above, claims 85, 88-90, 92-97, 104, 108 and 118 are allowable. Accordingly, the application is placed in condition for immediate allowance. Applicant respectfully requests formal allowance of such pending claims in the Examiner's next action.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 2-25-2004By: Jennifer J. Taylor, Ph.D.
Reg. No. 48,711